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ANNE RICE'S SERVANT OF THE BONES



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Azriel, the Servant of the Bones, saved the scholar Jonathan in his remote cabin one wintry night. He then tells him a tale of ancient Babylon, gods, kings, and secret rites. Able to see the great god of Babylon, Marduk, Azriel is sentenced to a terrible fate by his elders. But even he doesn't know the horror that awaits him in a secret chamber, or what the centuries of serving one master after another will turn him into...until he ends up in modern day New York City.

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*FOLLOW ME, JONATHAN, IF YOU WILL, INTO CONSCIOUSNESS.

*THE EVALS IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF DAY SEE HOW THEY SHINE.

*THREE BROTHERS OUT OF TEXAS, HIRED TO KILL THE RICH GIRL.

*I COULD FEEL THEIR EASY MALICE. THEY WERE SO READY TO KILL HER, BUT WHO WAS SHE? WHO HAD HIRED THEM?



*BILLY WAS IN THE LEAD, DOBY RIGHT BEHIND, WITH HAYDEN 'SUCKING HIND TEAT.'

*THERE HAD TO BE A REASON I WAS SEEING THIS. THAT I STOOD IN NEW YORK CITY, BREATHING IN THE SMELLS AS IF I WERE ALIVE.

*THAT I HAD BEEN CALLED AGAIN TO DUTY IN A BLAZING, VITAL WORLD.



WHY DO YOU DO THIS TO HER?



WILL YOU SHUT UP? I'M TELLING YOU, WE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HERE ANY WAY BUT THIS WAY.

SURE, WE DO HER AND JUST RUN, RUN LIKE LITTLE KIDS!

THEY LAUGHED.



SHE'S THERE, IN THAT GODDAMN CAR. LOOK AT THAT CAR.



*SHE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THEM. THOSE THREE COMMON AND VISIBLE TERRORS. THEY WERE GOING TO 'TAKE HER OUT.'



"SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL
IN THAT MOMENT, NOT
KNOWING SHE WAS
ABOUT TO DIE."

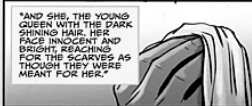


JESUS, DO
WE HAVE
TO DO IT IN
THERE?

"THE EVAL BROTHERS
DIDN'T LOOK SO
ORDINARY INSIDE, BUT IT
WAS SO CROWDED, THE
NOISE WAS SO LOUD."



"AND SHE, THE YOUNG
QUEEN WITH THE DARK
SHINING HAIR, HER
FACE INNOCENT AND
BRIGHT, REACHING
FOR THE SCARVES AS
THOUGH THEY WERE
MEANT FOR HER."



GOOD
AFTERNOON,
MISS BELKIN.

"SO THE QUEEN
HAD A NAME. BUT..."



"...I SAW THEY HAD
STRUCK GENIUSES
OF THE KILL."

"IN ONE SECOND,
HER LIFE LURCHED."





*THE LANGUAGE
IN HER DIED.

*HER LUNGS FILLED
WITH BLOOD.



*SHE WAS FALLING
DOWN DEAD AND I
KNEW THE KILLERS. I
HAD TO FOLLOW THEM.

MISS
BELKIN?



*I KNEW IF I
SHOVED AGAINST
THE HUMANS I
COULD MOVE
THEM OUT OF MY
WAY. I WASN'T
GOING TO LOSE
THE EVALS.



*I CAUGHT
UP QUICKLY.
TRANSPARENT
BUT FORMED.

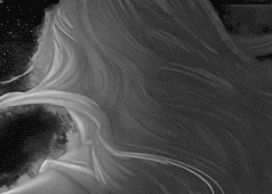


*THE BROTHERS HAD
BROKEN APART.

BILLY SMILED.



I WILL
KILL YOU
FOR THIS.





"IT WAS EASY. HE
NEVER CLEARLY
SAW ME, BUT HE FELT
THE BONE BREAK.



"I DROVE
THE PICK
INTO HIM THE
WAY HE HAD
DRIVEN IT
INTO HER."



YOU KILLED
THAT GIRL,
YOU FILTHY
DOG.

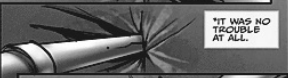
"ONLY MANY
MORE TIMES."



WAIT A
MINUTE,
MAN!



"THEY DIED
SO EASILY."

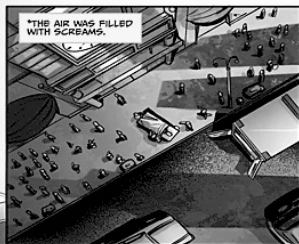


"IT WAS NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL."



"I HAD TO RETURN
TO ESTHER."







*THEN HER SOUL
BLAZED FOR ONE
INSTANT, VISIBLE
AND TOGETHER.



*TIME PASSED.
I FELT IT MORE
INTENSELY
THAN USUAL.

*I LEARNED WHAT
THE WORLD WAS NOW.
GHOSTS DON'T HAVE TO
BE AMAZED OR SHOCKED.
UNFETTERED BY FLESH,
THE MIND OF A GHOST
CAN GATHER ITSELF
PERHAPS INFINITELY.

*I GRASPED THE GENERAL
AND THE SPECTACULAR.
THE EARTH WAS ROUND,
SCIENCE HAD SURPASSED
THE ALCHEMISTS' DREAMS.





"THEN SHE WAS
GONE. HER SOUL
WAS GONE."

"I WANTED TO SAY
THEY KILLED HER, BUT
NOTHING CAME OUT
OF MY MOUTH."

THAT WAS
ESTHER BELKIN.
THE TEMPLE OF THE
MIND OF GOD, RUN
BY GREGORY
BELKIN. THAT WAS
HIS DAUGHTER.



"WHAT DID THESE
WORDS MEAN TO ME?
WHICH WAY TO GO?"

"I BEGAN TO FADE. I FELT
IT SWIFT AND TERRIBLE AS
ALWAYS IS."



"I WAS NOTHING
NOW, NOTHING."

"EVERYWHERE THERE
WERE DRAMATIC
CONTRASTS. EAST AND
WEST, THE NEW WORLD
AND THE OLD WORLD."

"TWO NIGHTS PASSED
IN REAL TIME BEFORE
I REALIZED I WAS
ONCE AGAIN AWAKE."

"THIS IS WHAT
I SAW."



"THE PROCESSION
WAS FURTIVE, YET
FULL OF AUTHORITY.

"I COULD STILL
SEE THE SHINING
TOWERS OF THE
STREET WHERE
SHE HAD DIED.

"THE SOARING
BUILDINGS REMINDED
ME OF THE WEAPONS
CARRIED BY THE EVILS,
SHARP AND HARD.

"ESTHER'S STEP-FATHER,
GREGORY BELKIN.

"FOUNDER OF THE
TEMPLE OF THE
MIND OF GOD.
WAS HE A PRIEST, A
PROUD PROPHET.
HE WAS WHATEVER
HE DEEMED
HIMSELF TO BE.

"WAS HE THE
MASTER?

"IF SO, HOW COULD
I NOT KNOW IT?

"HE WAS LIKE A
KING USED TO
PERFORMING
EVERY GRAND
GESTURE BEFORE
AN AUDIENCE.

"HE HAD NO
SENSE OF ME
WATCHING HIM.

"I WAS NOT THIS
MAN'S GOD.

"I WAS NOT
HIS SERVANT,
BUT I WAS HIS
OBSERVER.

"AND I NEEDED
TO KNOW WHY."

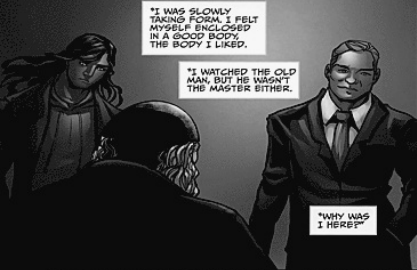


"WE WENT INTO THIS HOUSE AND I FELT THE WARMTH WHOOSH AROUND ME."

"THE SMELL OF HUMAN BEINGS, SWEET AND GOOD."

"I NEARLY GREW DRUNK."

"I KNEW I WAS HERE."



"I WAS SLOWLY TAKING FORM. I FELT MYSELF ENCLOSED IN A GOOD BODY, THE BODY I LIKED."

"I WATCHED THE OLD MAN, BUT HE WASN'T THE MASTER EITHER."

"WHY WAS I HERE?"



"THE OLD MAN'S ACCUSATION BROUGHT HER DEATH BACK, AS THOUGH SHE HAD DUG HER NAILS INTO MY SKIN AND SAID 'DO NOT FORGET ME.'"

"THE LOVE I FELT FOR HER TORMENTED ME."

"I HAD TO KNOW WHAT THE OLD MAN MEANT."

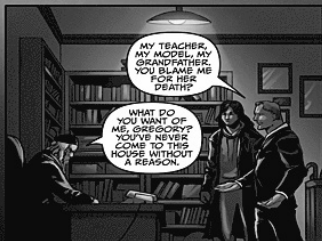


REBBE, WHY WOULD I KILL RACHEL'S DAUGHTER? THE ONLY CHILD I HAD? ESTHER... MY BEAUTIFUL ESTHER."



BUT YOU DID. YOU ARE AN ISOLATOR. A KILLER. YOU KILLED YOUR CHILD.

YOU WALK WITH EVIL. YOU REEK OF IT.



MY TEACHER, MY MODEL, MY GRANDFATHER. YOU BLAME ME FOR HER DEATH?

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, GREGORY? YOU'VE NEVER COME TO THIS HOUSE WITHOUT A REASON.



YOU BREAK MY HEART, REBBE.



TELL ME WHY YOU'VE COME OR LEAVE MY HOUSE.

I HAVE A CHECK IN MY POCKET, I COME TO GIVE IT TO YOU FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE COURT.

YOUR CHECKS COME TO THE BANK WITHOUT YOU. WE TAKE YOUR MONEY IN HONOR OF YOUR DEAD MOTHER AND MY BELOVED DEAD SON, YOUR FATHER. WHAT IT CAN DO FOR THOSE WHOM THEY ONCE LOVED.

GO BACK TO YOUR TEMPLE, YOUR COMPUTERS, YOUR WORLDWIDE CHURCH. GO HOME. HOLD YOUR WIFE'S HAND. HER DAUGHTER HAS BEEN MURDERED.



I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU, REBBE.



WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I HEARD YOU TELL A STORY ABOUT A FAMILY... SECRET. A TREASURE.

YOU HAVE TREASURE BEYOND ANY MAN'S DREAMS. WHAT WOULD BRING YOU HERE TO ASK ME ABOUT TREASURE?





YOU SPOKE
OF A FAMILY
SECRET.

REBBE, I
AM GRIEVING FOR
ESTHER. IT WASN'T MY
WEALTH THAT BOUGHT
HER THE DIAMONDS. I
WASN'T THE CAUSE OF
HER WEARING THEM
CARELESSLY. THAT THE
THIEVES CAUGHT HER
UNAWARES.



"THERE WAS A LIE IN THAT.
THERE WERE NO DIAMONDS,
SHE HAD WORN NONE."



YOU MISTAKE
ME. I DON'T SPEAK
OF YOUR WEALTH. I
MEAN YOU KILLED
YOUR DAUGHTER,
ESTHER. YOU HAD
HER MURDERED.



GRANDFATHER,
THAT IS MADNESS.
I AM A MAN OF GOD,
MY FOLLOWERS
WOULD NEVER—

STOP! GET
ON WITH IT.
WHY ARE YOU
REALLY
HERE?

IT'S SOMETHING
I REMEMBER YOU
SAID ONCE. I THINK
NATHAN WAS THERE,
BUT I DON'T THINK
HE HEARD IT—



LEAVE YOUR
BROTHER
ALONE.

I KNEW
YOU WOULDN'T
WANT ME TO
CONTAMINATE
HIM.

GET
ON WITH
THIS.

EXPLAIN IT
AND I WON'T
BOTHER NATHAN,
BUT I MUST
KNOW. THAT
DAY...

...YOU SPOKE
OF A SECRET
THING. A THING
YOU CALLED THE
SERVANT OF
THE BONES.





YOU SAID
A MAN HAD
BROUGHT THIS
THING TO YOUR
FATHER IN
PRAGUE.

YOU SAID
HE SHOULD NEVER
HAVE ACCEPTED SUCH
A THING. YOU CALLED
IT AN ABOMINATION.
THAT IT SHOULD BE
DESTROYED.

BUT
YOU SAID IT
WAS NOT AN EASY
THING TO DO. IT COULD
NOT BE DESTROYED
IRREVERENTLY. YOU
SPOKE OF SOMETHING
WRITTEN, A
DOCUMENT.



"SO, I WAS AN
ABOMINATION. WHO
COULD DESTROY
BOTH MEN IN THIS
ROOM. BUT... WHO
CALLED ME?"

DO YOU
REMEMBER THIS
GRANDFATHER,
OR DO I
DREAM?



YOU HEARD
THIS AT MY
KNEE?

WHY DO
YOU ASK
ME OF THIS
NOW?



WHY DO YOU
COME HERE ON
THE DAY OF YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
FUNERAL?



REBBE, THIS CHECK WILL BUY SO MANY THINGS.

ANSWER MY QUESTION, MONEY WE HAVE, WE ARE RICH. WHY DO YOU ASK ABOUT THIS THING NOW?

"THE BONES HAD TO BE HERE.

"I STOOD IN THIS WARM ROOM WITH ANOTHER OLD SCHOLAR, SURROUNDED BY SPELLS, CHARMS, INCANTATIONS.

"AND I HATED HIM.

"I HATED THIS REBBE ALMOST AS MUCH AS GREGORY HATED HIM.

"I THOUGHT OF ESTHER, THE TENDER GIRL, HER HEAD TURNED ON THE STRETCHER.



"HOW KIND AND ANESTHETIC HAD BEEN HER WHISPER, SERVANT OF THE BONES."



WHAT DRIVES YOU, GREGORY?

WHAT IS IT IN THE WIDE WORLD YOU WOULD HAVE? YOU ARE RICH BEYOND IMAGINING.

YET YOU MAKE A CHURCH TO DECEIVE THOUSANDS. YOU FASHION LAWS THAT ARE NOT LAWS AT ALL. YOU SELL BOOKS AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS THAT SAY NOTHING. YOU WOULD BE MOHAMMED OR CHRIST!

AND THEN YOU KILL YOUR DAUGHTER. I SEE IT IN YOU. I KNOW YOU KILLED HER. YOU SENT THOSE MEN.

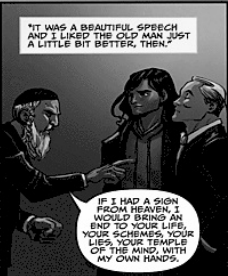
WHAT IS YOUR DREAM, GREGORY? TO BRING DOWN ON ALL OF US SUCH EVIL AND SHAME THAT THE MESSIAH CANNOT STAY AWAY? YOU WOULD TAKE AWAY HIS CHOICE!

I TEACH MY FOLLOWERS TO LOVE IN A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE NO SIGNS FROM HEAVEN.

GRANDFATHER, PLEASE. MY ONLY CHILD IS DEAD. WHY WOULD I KILL MY OWN DAUGHTER?

WHAT CAN I GIVE YOU TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS STORY, THIS SERVANT OF THE BONES? WAS ITS NAME AZRIEL?



"IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SPEECH AND I LIKED THE OLD MAN JUST A LITTLE BIT BETTER, THEN."

IF I HAD A SIGN FROM HEAVEN, I WOULD BRING AN END TO YOUR LIFE, YOUR SCHEMES, YOUR LIES, YOUR TEMPLE OF THE MIND, WITH MY OWN HANDS.



I NEVER
SPOKE THAT
NAME.

NO, BUT
SOMEONE
ELSE DID.

ESTHER, AS SHE
WAS DYING, SHE SAID
"THE SERVANT OF THE
BONES, AZRIEL." THE
MAN IN THE AMBULANCE
HEARD HER.

THE POLICE
THINK IT IS HER
KILLER.



NOW
LISTEN TO ME.
I HAVE KEPT MY
SECRET, OUR SECRET.
THAT I AM THE
GRANDSON OF THE
REBBE OF THE
COURT OF THE
HASIDIM.

I KEPT
THE SECRET
BECAUSE YOU
BEGGED ME.

BUT
SHE SAID THOSE
WORDS, AND IF YOU
DON'T TELL ME THE
MEANING, I SHALL TELL
THE POLICE WHERE I
HEARD THEM BEFORE.
IN THIS HOUSE.
FROM YOU.



YOU ARE
A FOOL,
YOU ALWAYS
WERE.

BUT I
BELIEVE YOU,
THE POOR CHILD
SAID THOSE
WORDS. THEY
HEARD HER?

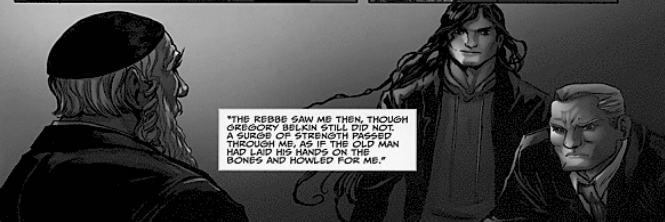


HER ATTENDANTS THOUGHT
SHE WAS LOOKING AT A
MAN OUTSIDE THE
WINDOW, WITH BLACK
HAIR.

IT'S A
SECRET, BUT
THEY SAW
HIM.



HE WEPT
FOR HER!



"THE REBBE SAW ME THEN, THOUGH
GREGORY BELKIN STILL DID NOT.
A SURGE OF STRENGTH PASSED
THROUGH ME, AS IF THE OLD MAN
HAD LAID HIS HANDS ON THE
BONES AND HOWLED FOR ME."



WHO ELSE KNOWS THIS STORY? DID ESTHER—?

NO, SHE NEVER CAME HERE. I DID NOT KNOW HER, YOU KNOW THIS.

IT IS A CURSED THING YOU SPEAK OF, A DEMON, A THING THAT CAN BE SUMMONED TO DO POWERFUL AND EVIL THINGS.

AND SO I AM HERE. EXPLAIN IT TO ME. WHAT IT IS AND IF YOU STILL HAVE IT.



MAYBE I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW. MAYBE I WILL DELIVER IT TO YOU, BUT NOT FOR THAT SUM. YOU HAVE TO GIVE US WHAT MATTERS TO US.

YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH YOU STILL HAVE THIS THING.

I DO.



I WANT IT. NAME YOUR PRICE!



BEHIND ME, IN THE BACK OF THESE BOOKS, OPEN THE CABINET, LIFT THE CLOTH YOU SEE THERE, AND BRING THE THING THAT IS BENEATH IT.



"I SAW THE CASKET AND A MEMORY OF ITS MAKING CAME BACK TO ME.

"I REMEMBERED SUNLIGHT ON MARBLE, KIND WORDS, A WORLD OF LOVE.



"I DID NOT REMEMBER ANYONE CLEARLY, BUT THE LOVE MADE ME THINK AGAIN OF ESTHER."



REBBE, THIS IS PRICELESS. THE WRITING, IT'S SUMERIAN, NOT HEBREW.



I KNOW WHAT IT IS.



"I SMELLED THE BONES, AND I THOUGHT: WHO HAS CALLED ME?"



"MAYBE NOBODY. MAYBE I HAD COME INTO MY OWN. MAYBE I WAS MY OWN MASTER."



NAME YOUR PRICE.



SIT DOWN THERE AND WRITE THE CHECKS I TELL YOU TO WRITE. THEN THIS THING... AND ALL I KNOW OF IT... IS YOURS.

"GREGORY SIGNED CHECKS, STACKS, IN HUGE SUMS."



YOU WANT THIS THING. YOU WANT ITS POWER.

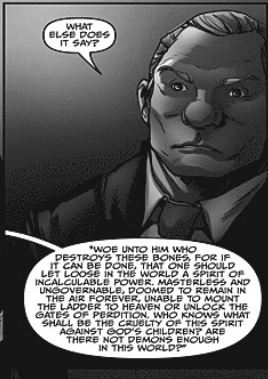
YES, I WANT IT. TO SEE IT. TO FIGURE OUT HOW SHE KNEW ABOUT IT.



"RETURN THIS THING TO THE HEBREWS FOR IT IS THEIR MAGIC AND ONLY THEY CAN PUT IT DEEP INTO HELL, WHERE IT BELONGS. THE SERVANT OF THE BONES NO LONGER HEEDS HIS MASTER. OLD VOWS NO LONGER BIND HIM. OLD CHARMS NO LONGER BANISH HIM. ONCE SUMMONED, HE DESTROYS ALL HE SEES. ONLY THE HEBREWS KNOW THE MEANING OF THIS THING. ONLY THE HEBREWS CAN HARNESS ITS FURY. GIVE IT FREELY TO THEM."



"HAD I TRULY COME INTO MY OWN? I DIDN'T DARE BELIEVE IT YET."



WHAT ELSE DOES IT SAY?

"WOE UNTO HIM WHO DESTROYS THESE BONES, FOR IF IT CAN BE DONE, THAT ONE SHOULD LET LOOSE IN THE WORLD A SPIRIT OF INCALCULABLE POWER, MASTERLESS AND UNGOVERNABLE, DOOMED TO REMAIN IN THE AIR FOREVER, UNABLE TO MOUNT THE LADDER TO HEAVEN OR UNLOCK THE GATES OF PERDITION. WHO KNOWS WHAT SHALL BE THE CRUELTY OF THIS SPIRIT AGAINST GOD'S CHILDREN? ARE THERE NOT DEMONS ENOUGH IN THIS WORLD?"



TOMORROW, WHEN MY BANKER CALLS AND TELLS ME THE CHECKS HAVE CLEARED, YOU WILL TAKE THIS THING.

LET ME HAVE IT NOW!

NO, YOU ARE EVIL BUT THE BARGAIN'S DONE. WELCOME THIS DEMON AND ITS ilk.

GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.



GIVE MY LOVE TO NATHAN.

"THE OLD MAN TREMBLED AS I STEPPED OUT FROM BEHIND THE BOOKCASE."



BE GONE, SPIRIT. I DID NOT CALL YOU.

WHY DO YOU DESPISE ME, OLD ONE? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

AWAY, SPIRIT, BACK INTO THE BONES!

YOU SAID HE KILLED HER, TELL ME IF HE DID. I SLEW THE MEN WHO STABBED HER.

WHY DID YOU SAY IT, REBBE? IF HE KILLED HER, I WILL AVENGE IT. WHEN YAHWEH SPOKE TO SAUL AND DAVID, HE SAID SLAY THEM ALL TO THE LAST MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD. WAS IT NOT RIGHT TO SLAY THOSE THREE FILTHY MEN?

BE GONE, SPIRIT! I WILL HAVE NO TRAFFIC WITH YOU!

I CURSE YOU, I HATE YOU!

"HIS WORDS LASHED ME, AND I WAS DISSOLVING. YET...

"...I COULDN'T STOP THINKING. I COULDN'T STOP BEING.

"THERE CAME THE FACE OF SAMUEL, AND DREAMS AS IF I WERE HUMAN.

"CHATTER. WIND. THE INVISIBLES WERE COMING, CLOSING IN. THE JEALOUS, GREEDY, EARTHBOUND DEAD SURROUNDED ME.



"BUT I WANTED TO REMEMBER. I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ESTHER HAD WANTED OF ME. I WOULD NOT FAIL HER."

"COMING BACK TO MYSELF THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, DIAPHANOUS, OPTIMISTIC, BUT HATEFULLY CALM. I WAS DONE WITH EVERYTHING EXCEPT JUSTICE FOR ESTHER, A GIRL I'D NEVER KNOWN."

"I ENTERED THE REBBE'S HOUSE IN BROOKLYN AGAIN WITH GREGORY. INVISIBLE."

WHAT'S THIS?

EVERYTHING WRITTEN ON THE CASKET, SO YOU MAY RECITE THE INCANTATION.

IT'S YOURS NOW. NOW PROMISE ME YOU WILL NOT COME BACK TO THIS HOUSE. YOU WILL NEVER SEEK THE COMPANY OF YOUR BROTHER.

YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE HIM, AND YOU WILL NEVER TELL ANYONE YOU WERE BORN ONE OF US.

YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN, GRANDFATHER, BUT TELL MY BROTHER NATHAN I LOVE HIM. I INSIST THAT YOU TELL HIM.

I'LL TELL HIM.

AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS ABOUT THIS CASKET? ABOUT WHAT MAY HAPPEN WHEN I READ THE INCANTATIONS?

NO.

ALL RIGHT, GRANDFATHER. WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO TALK ABOUT. GOODBYE.

WHY DID YOU PASS THE BONES TO HIM? IF YOU CALLED ME UP TO DESTROY HIM, TELL ME!

BE GONE, SPIRIT.

DO YOU WANT JUSTICE FOR HER? WHY DID YOU SAY HE KILLED ESTHER? TELL ME!

"BUT HE PRAYED AND WOULD NOT SPEAK."

"I WANTED TO FRIGHTEN HIM, TO HURT HIM, JUST A LITTLE. BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR IDLE PLAY."

"I VANISHED, PASSING THROUGH WALLS, I WENT UPWARDS. INTO THE COOL AIR."



"BELOW IN A STREAM
OF TRAFFIC I SAW
GREGORY'S CAR.

"I COMMANDED
MYSELF DOWN THERE,
BESIDE HIM, SO HE
COULD NOT SEE.



"NO MASTER COULD
HAVE SAID IT WITH
MORE DETERMINATION.



"I DESCENDED INTO
THE WARM VELVET OF
THE CAR. I TOOK MY
PLACE OPPOSITE HIM.

"I HAD BEEN SO
AFRAID I COULD NOT
DO IT, I ALMOST WEPT
WITH HAPPINESS.



"WE RODE TOGETHER, AND
I CALLED TO MYSELF THE
THINGS TO MAKE OF ME:
A BARELY VISIBLE YET
STRONG BEING.



"GREGORY FELL DOWN
ON HIS KNEES, SO CLOSE
HE ALMOST TOUCHED ME.



"I FELT SHOCK AS
THOUGH BLOOD
HAD BEEN INFUSED
INTO ME. MY HEART
HAD ONLY ONE
BEAT. NO, NOT YET.

"BUT HE RIPPED OFF
THE LID, IT FLEW
OFF, ROTTED..."



"...THERE LAY
THE BONES.
THE REMNANTS
OF MY BODY.



"DIMNESS THREATENED
ME. I FELT THE HEAT OF
THE CAULDRON. PAIN.

"I WHISPERED 'BODY
BE MY OWN.'"



MY LORD
GOD. SERVANT
OF THE BONES?
YOU HAVE A NEW
MASTER. COME
TO ME!

"I FELT HIS
HANDS ON
MY HEAD."



PERHAPS YES.
PERHAPS NO TO
ALL THOSE WORDS.
I AM ALREADY
HERE.

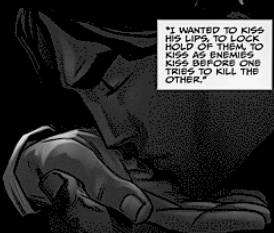
SERVANT
OF THE
BONES!

CALL
ME AZRIEL.
THAT'S MY
NAME.



WHY DID
ESTHER SAY IT?
SHE SAID AZRIEL
JUST AS YOU
DID.

BECAUSE
SHE SAW ME.
I WATCHED
HER DIE.



"I WANTED TO KISS
HIS LIPS. TO LOCK
HOLD OF THEM, TO
KISS AS ENEMIES
KISS BEFORE ONE
TRIES TO KILL THE
OTHER."



"HE WANTED TO TOUCH
ME. HE BEGAN TO
TREMBLE, BUT IT WASN'T
COWARDICE OR EVEN
SHOCK. IT WAS GLEE.

"I HAD DONE THIS, GREGORY HAD NO ALCHEMY SAVE MAYBE IN HIS PRESENCE, WHO WERE THESE MASTERS TO ME NOW? OLD MEN?"

THERE WAS NEVER A MASTER AS BRAVE AS YOU, GREGORY. NOT THAT I CAN REMEMBER.

NO, YOUR BRAVERY IS DIFFERENT, AND FRESH. AND YET YOU ARE NOT THE MASTER. IT SEEMS, LIKE IT OR NOT, I HAVE COME TO YOU ON MY OWN AND FOR MY OWN REASONS.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU. I LIKE THAT YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ME. I LIKE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT I AM FROM THE START AS ANY MASTER MIGHT, BUT YOU'RE NOT THE MASTER. I'M LEARNING THINGS FROM YOU.

"THIS ALL PLEASED HIM.

HAVE YOU?"

"THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING HE FOUND MORE FASCINATING THAN ME, AND THAT WAS HIMSELF.

"I WAS FRIGHTENED BY HIS CHARM, THAT I WARMED TO HIM, BUT I HAD BEEN THERE WHEN ESTHER DIED AND HE HAD NOT."

WE ARE AT MY HOME, AZRIEL. MY VERY DOOR.

I WONDER IF THEY WILL SEE YOU.



"EVERYWHERE I
LOOKED WERE
SHOUTING FACES."



"I COULD BARELY SEE
THE TOP OF THE GREAT
BUILDING BEFORE ME."



"I WAS MADLY
EXHILARATED,
ALIVE IN THE
MIDST OF THIS."

"I WALKED BESIDE
HIM, DRUNK ON THE
SPECTACLE."

"DRUNK ON
BEING ALIVE."

"WHO KNOWS
WHAT NOURISHES
A SPIRIT, IN THE
FLESH OR OUT
OF IT?"

TO BE CONTINUED...

ANNE RICE'S
SERVANT OF THE BONES
NEXT MONTH!

IDW PUBLISHING IN NOVEMBER: COUNTING DOWN

Musings & Hot Mustard from IDW's Director of Retail Marketing, Dirk Wood

LET'S TALK SOME TURKEY!



That's right, it's almost time for Thanksgiving! I'm already in training! I hit the mall and bought a new pair of expanding sweatpants, and I've been drinking beer and lounging on my inflatable San Diego Chargers beanbag chair, watching football!

Never mind all that, though. Working here at the world's greatest comic book company, I've got a lot to be thankful for! First of all, if I

need to avoid my insane relatives over the holidays, I can just bury my head in some great books!

If Uncle Frampton corners me to talk about his lunch box collection, I'll just ignore him and read the new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Micro-Series #1: Raphael*! The award-winning *Angel: After the Fall* team of Brian Lynch and Franco Urru have crafted a great tale that pays tribute to the original Turtles Micro-Series books!



If Aunt Agatha starts yammering about politics, I'll just pick up *Hawkman #1* from industry legend **Timothy Truman**! Tim and his son **Ben Truman** bring us Kitchell Hawkman, scalped, tortured, and back for vengeance... The weird west just got even weirder...

And if my Great Uncle Garvin drinks too much and wants to arm-wrestle (trust me, it happens every year), I've saved the best for last. I'll pull out my amazing, giant copy of the *Rocketeer Treasury Edition*, take it out of its old-school treasury bag, and dive into **Dave Stevens'** amazing artwork. That book is so big,

Great Uncle Garvin won't even see me!

So sure, I'm thankful for a lot of things. But mostly this month, I'd be thankful if you guys didn't tell my Uncle Frampton, my Aunt Agatha, or my Great Uncle Garvin about this article. Enjoy a great month of IDW books, and see you next time!



-Dirk
Dirk Wood
Director, Retail Marketing

IDW

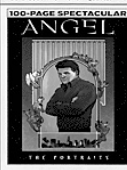
NOVEMBER RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

30 Days of Night #2
Angel Portraits 100-Page Spectacular
Anne Rice's Servant of the Bones #4
The Cape #3
Cobra #7
Cold War #2
Crysis #6
Dead Rising: Road to Fortune #2
Doctor Who #11
Dungeons & Dragons #13
Dungeons & Dragons: Drizzt #4
Ghostbusters #3
G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #172
G.I. Joe #7
Godzilla: Kingdom of Monsters #9
Godzilla Legends #1
Hawken #1
H.P. Lovecraft: The Dunwich Horror #2
Jack America IS The Courier #1
Jack America IS The Courier #2
Jack America IS The Courier #3
Jack America IS The Courier #4
Jack America IS The Courier #5
Jurassic Park: Dangerous Games #3
Rocketeer Jetpack Treasury Edition

WEEKEND BOOK

Snake Eyes #7
Star Trek 100-Page Spectacular
Star Trek/ Legion of Superheroes #2
Star Trek Ongoing #3
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #4
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Micro-Series #1: Raphael
Transformers #29
Transformers #30
True Blood: The French Quarter #4



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Shaman's Tears TPB
Sparrow Box Set 2 HC
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